

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-16

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O P 091011Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

INFO USDAO JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1482

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK PRIORITY

CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0710

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP (MIDDENDORF, J. WILLIAM)

SUBJECT : SECNAV VISIT TO BAHRAIN

FOR SECRETARY MIDDENDORF FROM AMBASSADOR

1. I AM MOST APPRECIATIVE YOUR MAKING TIME IN BUSY ITINERARY TO PLAN BRIEF STOP IN BAHRAIN. YOU WILL BE MOST SENIOR USG OFFICIAL TO VISIT HERE SINCE THEN SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS CAME HERE IN 1972. I CAN ASSURE YOU BAHRAINI LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY AMIR AND PRIME MINISTER, ARE DELIGHTED AT PROSPECTS YOUR VIST AND VIEW IT AS SIGNIFICANT INDICATION U.S. INTEREST IN AND FRIENDSHIP FOR BAHRAIN.

2. AS YOU KNOW WE ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH AMIR. THIS SESSION WOULD LAST NO MORE THAN 30 MINS; MOST LIKELY WITH PRIME MINISTER AND PROBABLY CROWN PRINCE/ DEFENSE MINISTER ATTENDING (FOREIGN MINISTER OUT OF COUNTRY).

3. FOLLOWING NOTES MAY BE HELPFUL:

A. PERSONALITIES:

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1) AMIR OF BAHRAIN, SHAIKH ISA BIN SULMAN AL KHALIFA.

(ADDRESSED "YOUR HIGHNESS"). AGE 41, PRIVATELY EDUCATED, RULER OF BAHRAIN SINCE 1961. CONVERSES IN ENGLISH EASILY BUT CAN GET LOST IN COMPLICATED EXCHANGES. BRIGHT, OFTEN WITTY, AND NOTABLY GRACIOUS AND PLEASANT. VERY PRO-AMERICAN; EVEN MORE PRO-BRITISH. MAJOR FORCE BEHIND DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO RETAIN U.S. NAVY PRESENCE HERE. EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH RECENT U.S. EFFORTS TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE. RELIEVED U.S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST WILL NOT DEVIATE BECAUSE OF CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS. ANXIOUS ABOUT PEACE PROSPECTS. WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS WORLD-WIDE. BASICALLY A MODERATE. AFTER SOME YEARS OF PRODDING BY LOYAL NATIONALIST BAHRAINIS HAS PERMITTED CONSTITUTIONAL PARLIAMENTARY GOVT; CAUTIOUSLY PLEASED WITH RESULT BUT SENSITIVE TO ANY INDICATIONS KING FAISAL OR SHAH OF IRAN DISPLEASED WITH TOO RAPID OR PERMISSIVE POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION IN BAHRAIN. ESSENTIALLY MODEST MAN BUT AS AN AL KHALIFA CONSIDERS HIMSELF ARISTOCRAT OF GULF AND CULTURALLY A CUT OR SO ABOVE AMIRS OF WEALTHIER GULF STATES. LAST VISITED U.S. IN 1969.

2) PRIME MINISTER, SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SULMAN AL KHALIFA. (ADDRESSED "YOUR EXCELLENCY"). AMIR'S BROTHER, PRIME MINISTER SINCE BAHRAIN'S INDEPENDENCE. ABOUT FORTY. PRIVATELY EDUCATED. VERY FLUENT ENGLISH. INTELLIGENT, HARD WORKING, TOUGH MINDED, AND PRAGMATIC. OF MORE SERIOUS BENT THAN AMIR AND SLIGHTLY MORE CONSERVATIVE IN POLITICAL OUTLOOK. IN PRIVATE AUDIENCES TENDS TO BE NON-STOP TALKER BUT MAY REMAIN DEFERENTIALLY RETICENT IF AMIR IS PRESENT. GENERALLY SHARES AMIR'S FOREIGN POLICY AND POLITICAL VIEWS. ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTER OF U.S. NAVY PRESENCE HERE AND OF GREATER U.S. PRESENCE ACROSS THE BOARD. WAS SINCERELY TOUCHED BY OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCES FROM U.S. OFFICIALS (INCLUDING ADMIRAL ZUMWALT) WHEN PM'S ELDEST SON RECENTLY DIED IN U.S. AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS. HAS VISITED U.S. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, INCLUDING TWICE THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF SON'S ILLNESS.

3) CROWN PRINCE AND DEFENSE MINISTER, SHAIKH HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA. 23 YEARS OLD. AMIR'S ELDEST SON. EXCELLENT ENGLISH. STUDIED AT SANDHURST. SPENT YEAR AT U.S. ARMY STAFF COLLEGE FORT LEAVENWORTH 1971-2 AND SEEMS GENUINELY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT EXPERIENCE THERE. RECEPTIVE TO U.S. WAY OF DOING THINGS. LOOKS STRIKINGLY LIKE KING HUSSEIN, SEEMS TO ATTEMPT TO EMULATE
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HIM AND IS GENERALYY CLOSE TO JORDANIANS. CHARMING, COURTEOUS AND INTELLIGENT IN CONVERSATION. GENERALLY REGARDED AS NOT AN INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN KHALIFA FAMILY OR GOVERNMENT COUNCILS BUT THIS MAY BE LARGELY MATTER OF AGE AND EXPERIENCE.

B. TALKING POINTS:

RBAHRAINIS CHARACTERISTICALLY WILL HANDLE YOUR VISIT AS MORE COURTESY CALL THAN DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BUT

WILL SET GREAT STORE IN MEETING WITH YOU. THEY WOULD
WELCOME YOUR MENTIONING--

- 1) U.S.G.'S APPRECIATION FOR CONSISTENT FRIENDSHIP BAHRAINI
LEADERSHIP AND BAHRAIN'S HOSPITALITY TO AMERICANS.
 - 2) APPRECIATION GOB WILLINGNESS TO RECONSIDER QUESTION OF U.S.
NAVY PRESENCE (FYI TECHNICALLY, GOB HAS NOT YET DECIDED FORMALLY
TO REVERSE DECISION ON TERMINATING STATIONING AGREEMENT BUT
AMIR/PRIME MINISTER CONSIDER BASIC POLITICAL DECISION MADE
AND ASSUME WE WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN RESOLVING CERTAIN
RELATED PROBLEMS.)
 - R3) REASSURANCE THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION IS CONTINUING U.S.
FOREIGN POLICY WITH STRONG BASE OF POLITICAL SUPPORT.
 - 4) ASSURANCE U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY WILL NOT DEVIATE FROM
RESOLUTE PURSUIT JUST AND LASTING PEACE. USG AWARENESS OF
DIFFICULTIES IN ROAD AHEAD AND NEED FOR ARAB STATES TO CONTINUE
FOSTERING ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO PEACE.
 - 5) FRIENDSHIP FOR BAHRAIN IN OFFICIAL WASHINGTON AND U.S.G.
DESIRE FOR EXPANDED COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH BAHRAIN AND
GULF REGIONAL GENERALLY. (FYI WHILE GOB LEADERS WELCOME U.S.
NAVY PRESENCE THEY ARE EAGER TO SEE IT BALANCED BY LARGER
OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE AMERICAN PRESENCE, NOTABLY IN ENDEAVORS
OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.)
 - 6) YOUR INTEREST IN AMIR'S VIEWS ON SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST
GENERALLY AND GULF IN PARTICULAR.
- TWINAM

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